

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 14, 15, 17 and 20 as shown below, in which changes are shown with strikethrough and/or underscoring.

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1. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member comprising:  
a tin oxide layer having a rutile structure formed on a surface of a substrate;  
and  
an overcoat layer formed on the surface of said tin oxide layer, wherein said overcoat layer has a surface polarity opposite to that of tin oxide, is selected from at least one of silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, ceric oxide, and titanium oxide, and the mean surface roughness ( $R_a$ ) of the top surface thereof is within a range of 0.5 to 25 nm.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, wherein the mean surface roughness ( $R_a$ ) of said tin oxide layer is also within a range of from 0.5 to 25 nm.
4. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, wherein the mean spacing ( $S_m$ ) of the irregularities of the top surface of said overcoat layer is within a range of 4 nm to 300 nm.
5. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, wherein said tin oxide layer has a thickness within a range of 10 to 800 nm.

6. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, wherein said overcoat layer has a thickness within a range of 0.1 to 100nm.

7. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 12, wherein the refractive index of said undercoat film acting as a barrier against alkali is between the refractive index of the substrate and the refractive index of the tin oxide layer.

8. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 12, wherein said undercoat film is a layered body of tin oxide and silicon oxide.

9. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of: glass the main component of which is silicon oxide; tile; ceramic; and a metal plate.

10. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic member is a mirror having a thin metal film formed on the substrate surface between the substrate and the tin oxide layer, or on an opposite surface of the substrate.

11. Cancelled.

12. (Previously added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 1, further including an undercoat film disposed between the surface of said substrate and said tin oxide layer, said undercoat film acting as a barrier against alkali.

13. (Previously amended) A hydrophilic member according to claim 12, wherein said hydrophilic member is a mirror having a thin metal film formed on the substrate

surface between the substrate and the undercoat film, or on an opposite surface of said substrate.

14. (Presently <sup>amended</sup> added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 2 1, wherein the mean surface roughness ( $R_a$ ) of said tin oxide layer is also within a range of from 0.5 to 25 nm.

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15. (Presently <sup>amended</sup> added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 2 1, wherein the mean spacing ( $S_m$ ) of the irregularities of the top surface of said overcoat layer is within a range of 4 nm to 300 nm.

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16. (Previously added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 14, wherein the mean spacing ( $S_m$ ) of the irregularities of the top surface of said overcoat layer is within a range of 4 nm to 300 nm.

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17. (Presently <sup>amended</sup> added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 2 1, wherein said tin oxide layer has a thickness within a range of 10 to 800 nm.

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18. (Previously added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 15, wherein said tin oxide layer has a thickness within a range of 10 to 800 nm.

19. (Previously added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 16, wherein said tin oxide layer has a thickness within a range of 10 to 800 nm.

20. (Presently <sup>amended</sup> added) A hydrophilic member according to claim 2 1, wherein said overcoat layer has a thickness within a range of 0.1 to 100nm.

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